

**BY ORDER OF THE  
COMMANDER**

**MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE INSTRUCTION 48-101  
14 APRIL 2000**



***Aerospace Medicine***

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This instruction supplements 29 CFR 1910.134, *Respiratory Protection*, and AFOSH Standard 48-137. It applies to and is maintained by all organizations on Maxwell AFB and Gunter Annex in which personnel wear respirators for protection against inhalation of harmful atmospheres or for emergency escape or rescue

***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS***

Supervisors schedule workers for fit-testing/training at least 2 weeks before due date (para 2.2.8). Bioenvironmental Engineering issues a medical evaluation questionnaire (MEQ) to each respirator wearer initially and as needed thereafter (para 2.1.2). Occupational Medicine is responsible for detecting abnormal medical conditions that could cause the worker to be disqualified for wear of respiratory protection or warrant additional medical evaluation (MEQ) (para 2.4.2). Bioenvironmental Engineering is responsible for ensuring all MEQ approval sheets are placed into patient's medical records (para 2.1.3). Occupational Medicine is responsible for placing all other medically-sensitive information from the MEQ into the patient's medical records (2.4.1). Workers take a competency quiz upon completion of respirator training (para 3).

**1. Introduction.**

1.1. Certain work areas at Maxwell AFB and Gunter Annex require respiratory protection to prevent overexposures to harmful levels of toxic materials.

1.2. For respiratory protection to be effective, supervisors must follow established procedures for medical screening, training, and issuing of respirators. Also, each wearer must follow proper procedures for cleaning and storing.

1.3. Respirators are provided as individual protective equipment and are not to be interchanged among users. Exception to this policy is permitted where respirators are procured and used for emergency response and areas where joint usage by students is required.

1.4. A fit-testing program is conducted to ensure respirators provide adequate protection for the individual user. Fit-testing ensures unique facial characteristics do not allow leakage around the edge of respirators.

**2. Responsibilities.** Responsibilities are described in AFOSH Standard 48-137. Additional local responsibilities regarding implementation of the base respiratory protection program are addressed here.

**2.1. Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight (42 AMDS/SGPB).**

2.1.1. Tracks status of each worker wearing respiratory protection and ensures currency.

é 2.1.2. Ensures workers requiring respirators are issued the initial Medical Evaluation Questionnaire (MEQ) outlined in AFOSH Standard 48-137 and 29 CFR 1910.134. Upon completion of the initial MEQ, the worker is fit tested annually without having to complete another MEQ, unless special medical conditions warrant additional medical evaluation.

é 2.1.3. Ensures the MEQ approval sheet (form showing approval by the 42 AMDS/SGPF and SGPB representative) is placed into the worker's medical records.

2:1.4. Issues AF Form 2772, **Certificate of Respirator Fit Test**, to each individual trained and fit tested.

**2.2. Supervisors of Units Where Respirators Are Used By Workers.**

2.2.1. Do not permit new or transferred employees to work in identified hazardous areas until they are medically cleared, issued a respirator, fit tested, and trained by 42 AMDS/SGPB.

2.2.2. Contact 42 AMDS/SGPB at extension 3-5848 to schedule new or transferred employees for fit-testing and training.

2.2.3. Provide employees with the exact respiratory protection system apparatus specified by 42 AMDS/SGPB on the AF Form 2772.

2.2.4. Provide appropriate cleaning materials for cleaning respirators after each use. Supervisors must ensure that respirators used by several individuals are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between each use. Various cleaning and disinfection agents are available from respirator manufacturers (use of alcohol based cleaning agents is discouraged).

2.2.5. Provide clean and proper storage areas for respirators when not in use. Do not allow respirator storage in toolboxes or in locations where chemicals are stored or used. Store in sealable plastic bags after cleaning and drying.

2.2.6. Ensure that when an employee is issued a new respirator, it is one listed on the employee's AF Form 2772.

2.2.7. Perform monthly inspections of all respirators maintained for emergencies to ensure they are in satisfactory working condition. Keep records of inspections.

é 2.2.8. Contact BE at extension 3-5848 to schedule fit-testing at least 2 weeks before fit-testing due date. The supervisor is responsible for identifying personnel who need initial and annual fit-testing.

### 2.3. Employees Wearing Respirators.

2.3.1. Perform positive and negative pressure checks on the respirator before use.

2.3.2. Ensure no conditions exist that prevent a good face seal such as growth of beard, sideburns, skull cap that projects under the face piece, or temple pieces on glasses. The absence of one or both dentures can seriously affect the fit of a face piece. Contact the Optometry Clinic (42 AMDS/SGPP) for spectacle inserts if prescription glasses are worn and required to wear full-face respirators.

2.3.3. Keep AF Form 2772 in their possession. Form must be available upon request by Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight or inspectors from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, etc., to confirm that respirator being used is the one employee was fitted for.

### 2.4. The Occupational Medicine Services.

é 2.4.1. Responsible for placing that portion of the MEQ containing confidential medically-related information into the worker's medical records.

é 2.4.2. Responsible for indicating, during routine exams, any special medical conditions that differ from the MEQ and could warrant completion of another MEQ or full medical evaluation to determine whether or not worker is still qualified to wear a respirator.

**3. Training.** Bioenvironmental Engineering (BE) conducts annual training once the respirator wearer has completed their annual fit-test. BE issues a standard quiz after training to ensure proficiency. Records are maintained by BE annually.

**4. Tuberculosis.** The base respiratory protection program regarding policy on the infection and control of *M.Tuberculosis* can be found in the 42 MDG Instruction 48-2, *Tuberculosis (TB) Control Plan*.

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